

# The McGill Daily

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## Grads challenge Shapiro's vision

"New McGill" turns its back on accessible education

By Brenda Mercer

Principal Bernard Shapiro's vision of the McGill of the future, outlined in his September memorandum, "Towards a New McGill," has sparked opposition in several parts of the McGill community. Last week, the Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) released "A Graduate Student Vision for McGill," a document that takes issue with several key points in Shapiro's plan.

The "New McGill" that Shapiro proposes includes a sharply reduced student body, higher tuition and support only for those departments able to generate the revenues needed to sustain them.

Shapiro also sees a much higher degree of industry and corporate involvement in McGill, with a corresponding decrease in federal and provincial funding.

According to PGSS President Stephen Targett, [the PGSS] "is strongly opposed" to any move to reduce public subsidies and privatise McGill.

Targett worries that under Shapiro's scheme, the university could become "an exclusive little club for rich white people."

"This," he adds, "is not what we think public education is about."

Though the "Graduate Student Vision" recognises the financial pressures currently facing the university, it does not agree with Shapiro's suggestion that such drastic measures are inevitable.

The "New McGill" would represent "a huge paradigm change, a basic shift away from universal education," Targett said. The "New McGill" would effectively turn its back on its commitment to making higher education accessible to all parts of society, he added.

### TAS MAKE CHEAP LABOUR IN "NEW MCGILL"

Besides taking a strong stand against Shapiro's call for "substantially higher tuition fees," the PGSS is concerned that the "new McGill" will seriously compromise the mission and integrity of the university.

Particularly worrisome is the increased role of industry in financing and guiding research within the university.

The PGSS document points out that direct corporate participation in research programs could backfire, allowing the federal and provincial governments to further reduce funding.

Such corporate funding might also reduce the eligibility of graduate students for some research grants, currently a major funding source. As the PGSS document states, "Direct industrial sponsorship of research laboratories... [would] compromise academic integrity and question the autonomy and quality of the research."

"We are loathe to see the University make direct links



Can't see through the dollar signs

with the business sector," Targett declared.

Changes to the role of

graduate students at McGill are another point of contention. Drastically reducing the student-teacher ratio by cutting enrollment will severely reduce the opportunities for teaching assistantships. Many graduate students rely on teaching to finance their education and to provide them with valuable training.

"The best graduate students will go elsewhere if fees increase dramatically," the PGSS notes, "particularly if in conjunction with decreased opportunities for teaching."

As such, high tuition, reduced diversity in programs and student body and the risk to the university's research programs could have a negative effect upon McGill's ability to attract those outstanding graduate and undergraduate students who

make up the core of the "New McGill."

But teaching assistants, as the PGSS' response points out, can "help to bridge the gap between professors and undergraduate students," and serve as important role models for students considering post-graduate studies. They also provide more freedom for professors pursuing research and publication activities.

While Shapiro's "New McGill" involves measures "to exploit the products of our teaching and research developments," the PGSS document points out that there are other candidates for exploitation: graduate students.

"Graduate students would become little more than inexpensive labour for private industry," it states. Private employment, already difficult for graduates to obtain, would become even more scarce.

Targett is also troubled by the manner in which the Principal's proposed changes were developed. "[The proposal arose from] an informal chat at a retreat, just people batting ideas around," he said. "Shapiro took that and pumped out a document, and suddenly we've got a committee looking at implementation."

Shapiro's explanation of the origin of his proposal, delivered at a meeting the PGSS called to discuss the memorandum, "only added to our concerns," Targett said. The society is uneasy about both the process and the motivations for the plan.

"When Shapiro came to McGill last year, it was not with a mandate for momentous change."

"We feel that, in the Principal's terms, we should try to foster change given what we have. Instead of bowing to pressure, we need to fight back, to go in the direction of what we want," Targett continued.

He suggested that McGill attempt to make changes to strengthen the current structure, rather than chasing after an entirely new concept of a corporate university.

## A REAL AND PRESENT THREAT

### ABORIGINAL AIDS CASES INCREASE SIX-FOLD

by Samer Muscati

OTTAWA (CUP) — The spread of AIDS in aboriginal communities will reach epic proportions if the federal and provincial governments do not take serious action soon, say some native leaders.

While the number of AIDS cases has leveled off among non-Aboriginal Canadians, the latest Health Canada statistics show that cases among Aboriginals have increased six-fold since 1990.

Over the past five years, the number of cases has jumped to 153 cases from 24.

"The statistics are alarming," said Marlene Poitras, national AIDS director for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

Poitras says that the number of actual cases is much higher than shown in

government statistics, since the figures are "grossly under-reported" due to the difficulty in getting accurate numbers as testing in many communities is rare.

"It has the potential to be a real epidemic," said Poitras. "I get really scared when I think about it."

According to a study by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples completed in April 1994, AIDS represents a "real and present threat to Aboriginal peoples in Canada."

The unpublished study warns that the current state of ignorance concerning Aboriginals and AIDS will remain because there is no coordinated or sustained approach to the problem by the federal government and Aboriginal communities.

"Many Aboriginal people do not perceive HIV/AIDS as a risk to them," stated the study. "Many Aboriginal people still perceive AIDS as a white man's disease which will not affect them."

The study recommends that AIDS education and support infrastructure within Aboriginal communities be strengthened by providing more financial support for research, education and prevention activities from the federal government.

In spite of the study and their own statistics, Health Canada has earmarked only six per cent of its national AIDS strategy budget for Aboriginal programmes. Over a five year period concluding in

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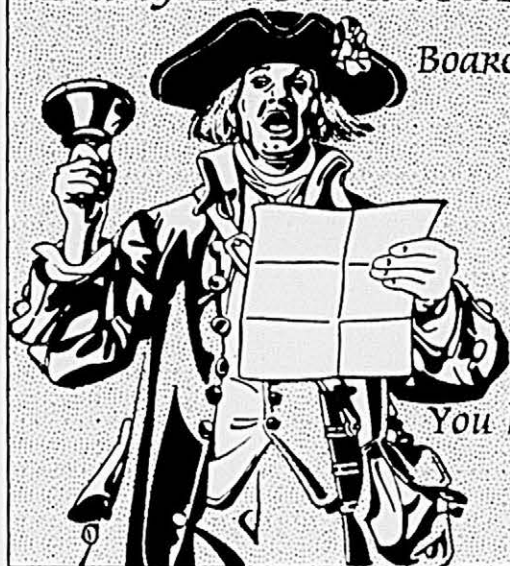
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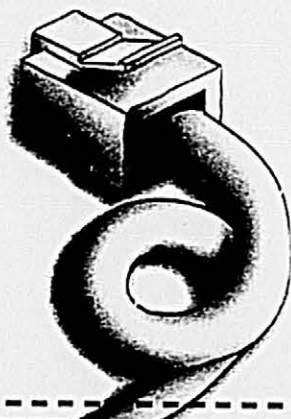
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## ELECTIONS

### Post Graduate Student's Society (PGSS)

Call for nominations for the following positions of PGSS executives:

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**VP Finance**  
**VP Internal**  
**VP University Affairs**  
and graduate representatives for:  
**Senator (Ph.D.)**  
**Senator (Master's)**  
**Board of Governors**

Call for member initiated referendum questions

All regular members of the Post Graduate Student's Society are eligible for nominations and submission of referendum questions. Elections, if any, will be held in mid-March.

The following deadline will be observed for PGSS positions:

**Wednesday, February 7, noon**

Nomination forms, instructions for the candidates and guidelines for submission of the referendum questions can be obtained at Thomson House, 3650 McTavish, in the PGSS office (4th floor) or at the front desk. They have to be returned to the Chief Returning Officer (PGSS office) by the specified deadline.

Please note that PGSS executives are awarded a yearly stipend of \$6,000.

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## Palestinian elections To the Daily,

The Palestinian elections are over, but the hawks are still squawking. With clever maneuvering, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat received an overwhelming popular mandate from his people to continue peaceful negotiations with Israel. Evidently, this doesn't impress Zaid Qadumi, who calls the Oslo Accords a "betrayal" (Jan. 22).

Citing UN Resolution 194, Qadumi says Israel ignored its obligation to Palestinian refugees of the 1948 war. The refugee issue, however, was sidelined because the Arab states blocked any working solution with Israel. While Israel was willing to accept 100 000 Palestinians, the Arab states demanded total repatriation, ignoring UN references to "resettlement." In fact, they rejected the UN resolution altogether!

Qadumi's complaints are baseless.

First, refugees are on the peace agenda but, like other difficult issues, they're left for the final status negotiations. Second, the army's right of re-entry into Palestinian areas is designed to halt cross-border strikes into Israel. Finally, the 400 Palestinians expelled in 1993 (read: " Hamas members") were later returned

**Make your voice heard:** Submit letters and Hyde Parks to the *Daily*. Hyde Parks must be under 500 words, libel-free and signed by the author(s). Hyde Parks cannot respond to articles that were published in the *Daily*. The *Daily* will not publish any Hyde Park it deems to be racist, homophobic and/or sexist, and cannot guarantee publication of all Hyde Parks.

## hyde park

### THE MCCORD ARCHIVES: A VICTIM OF DOWNSIZING

As McGill begins celebrating its 175th anniversary, the administration is silently sitting by as a part of McGill's heritage is locked away. On January 15, the position of archivist at the McCord Museum of Canadian History was eliminated and the archives were closed to new users.

This is in sharp contrast to the past situation. McGill students were given full access to the archives with the enthusiastic help and professional expertise of Pamela Miller, archivist of over twenty years. Until the closure, many McGill classes, seminars and students were warmly welcomed at the archives.

The University administration seems to be ignoring this drastic change. No students were warned or consulted despite the fact that Principal Shapiro and Professors Des Morton, Derek Drummond and

William Tetley sit on the McCord Board.

These four McGill representatives are trustees of the McCord by design. They represent the interests of McGill and its students. The museum was once a part of the university and its collections continue to be the property of McGill. Although managed by the museum, the McCord archives are as much a part of McGill as the McLennan stacks.

The action taken by the McCord, which is in direct contradiction to its stated mission as "a public research and teaching museum" is particularly unfortunate in light of the recent investment of over \$26 million to renovate the museum and provide the archives with a majestic new home. The McCord's Director, Claude Benoit, has stated that abolishing the archivist position is part of necessary

downsizing. This bottom line MBA strategy does not reflect an awareness of basic priorities. The primary goal of a museum is not running gift shops and cafés, but preservation and appreciation of museum holdings. We are not suggesting that the museum operate at a loss, but why aren't the archives considered an asset that can be exploited rather than a liability that adds to the McCord deficit? The trustees, it seems, have opted for simply luring in paying customers while amputating one of the Museum's most important activities, professional archival care and supervision. One is left wondering if they considered all the options.

The action taken by the trustees of the McCord and the McGill administration's acquiescence shows how the University and affiliated institutions

place budgets before real essentials: quality of education, access and the pursuit of excellence. No students were consulted about this closure; yet, we are the group most affected — archival research experience will not be gained, documents will be inaccessible, theses will not be written.

Principal Shapiro wants a university able to charge students \$15 000 a year with financially self-supporting departments. Meanwhile, the administration's acceptance of the McCord decision is allowing the mismanagement of a major university asset — an asset which could be used to attract students and funding. If McGill is to remain a "world class" university — and this is Shapiro's stated goal — it should ensure that students continue to enjoy fully one of McGill's unique resources, the McCord archives.

Steve WATT, M.A. I, History

Alex ROSHUK, M.A. I, History & B.C.L./LL.B. IV, Faculty of Law

## letters

home.

Qadumi claims that the PLO can't be guilty of terrorism because it's allegedly a national liberation movement, yet this overlooks the issue of tactics. Terrorism is defined as military action specifically aimed at civilians to achieve a political goal. Because it routinely attacked non-military targets, the PLO was therefore a terrorist group. The booby-trapped doll placed in a playground isn't intended for an infantry division.

A good sophist, Qadumi contends that the PLO attacks "were responses to Israeli occupation." There's just one problem: the PLO was founded in 1964, three years before Israel captured the disputed territories.

Qadumi's claim makes no sense unless he considers all of Israel "occupied territory," in which case his true colours show. After reading Qadumi's harangue, one wonders what informed, moderate Palestinians have to say about peace with Israel.

Erik Schechter  
Arts U3

## McGill grads protest the tests

M. Alfred Siefert Gaillardin  
French Ambassador to  
Canada  
cc: The McGill Daily

Dear Monsieur Siefert

Gaillardin,

I am writing on behalf of the Post Graduate Students' Society of McGill University to inform you of our decision to take a stand against French nuclear testing and to boycott French products.

We join the millions of other protesters who have spoken out against the testing of nuclear weapons at Moruroa atoll.

Not only does France's nuclear testing defy world opinion, jeopardise the Non-Proliferation Treaty and hinder the signing of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, it is also an act of environmental and racial injustice: It affects both the environment and the people of the South Pacific adversely. There is no avoidance of, nor recourse for, this damage.

Our Society has been informally boycotting French products in our restaurant and bar service since the summer of 1995; however we have recently passed a resolution in our council, formalising this action.

The resolution that was passed states that we will cease using and purchasing French products until one year after the French government stops testing nuclear weapons and signs the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We have chosen to boycott French products for one year following the signing of the  
The McGill Daily

treaty because we wish it to be known that we are opposing both the testing and the politics that have surrounded these tests. We feel that the French government has been falsely conciliatory by promising to sign the treaty only after they finish their nuclear testing.

We trust that you will pass this message on to your government.

Erin Runions  
VP-External Affairs, Post  
Graduate Students' Society

## In whose "interest"? To the Daily,

The term 'special interest group,' currently enshrined in the vocabulary of the political right, merits analysis. It is implicitly pejorative, designating those 'others' who do not act in the interests of the whole. The mere labeling of a group as a 'special interest group' is enough to justify preventing that group's ascension to a position of political power.

There is nothing in the label itself that warrants such a denial. That a particular group does not act in the interest of the "greater majority" does not follow from the fact that such a group promotes a particular concern. 'Environment' and 'Social Equity' are issues raised by specific groups seeking to create a better society for all.

'Special interest' is meaning-

less, unless distinguished from 'general interest,' yet those who make the distinction inevitably fail to specify what the 'general interest' is and why it is important. The 'general interest' cannot be identified because the majority in any "democratic" society expresses its wishes anonymously, through the ballot box.

'Interest group' acquires meaning from the political context in which it is used. It makes for strong rhetoric because it appeals to the political sentiment of the moral majority — by far the largest interest group around — and its fear that no one will champion its cause.

Representation becomes a battlefield. The leaders of the moral majority identify as "unreliable" groups whose agendas differ from their own, while hiding their ambitions behind the veil of a majority that expresses itself through democratic means.

Student politics provide an opportunity to experiment with alternative models of government. Unfortunately, in the present situation at SSMU, the number of card-carrying members of the Reform party who occupy positions on council outweighs the number of people who are actively working towards progressive change.

Thomas White  
U3 Arts



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Submit entry to Student Union B-03 by noon Wed. Jan. 31.  
 Winners will be announced in the Thurs. Feb. 1 issue.

# Workfare

## Québec increases

by Andrea Cooke

This year's welfare reforms in Québec could see more and more people forced to accept workfare programmes or else see their welfare cheques dwindle.

Under the new AGIR programme, welfare recipients will see their monthly welfare cheque decrease by \$100 to \$150 if they refuse to participate in government work programmes.

These stipulations add to the already extensive workfare programmes that have been in place in Québec for many years.

In an information session given last week at Project Genesis in Cote des Neiges, Dominique McCaughey explained that workfare is nothing new to Québec.

Even before the changes to welfare in 1989 and 1990, workfare programmes already existed. The 1989-1990 law only served to strengthen them.

"A number of employment programmes were put into place by the government and people were 'offered' the possibility to take part in these employment programmes," explained McCaughey.

However, she went on to say that "offered meant if you didn't take part in these programmes, you were going to be cut [off from welfare]."

McCaughey — along with other community workers who have been calling for an end to workfare in Québec — point to the restrictions workfare places on the power people have in a workplace and the inability of workfare to provide anything but temporary jobs.

People who are in workfare programmes are not protected by the same labour laws as people who are off the system.

"In a regular job situation you're told your job description, what your taxes are, what is expected of you and your evaluation procedure. Under a lot of workfare programs, you're assigned a desk and told what you are going to do. Then you finish your programme and back you go," said McCaughey.

McCaughey elaborated saying that many people on workfare programs who have had problems with their employers have been afraid to mention the problem. The worker could end up out of the programme and in a non-participant category getting \$500 a month.

### A HISTORY OF WORKFARE

Two of the province's largest workfare programmes are EXTRA and Project PAIE.

The EXTRA programme — which came out of what was once known as Canada Work — was created in order to give younger welfare recipients their first job experience.

In 1989-1990 Canada Work was changed to EXTRA, aimed primarily at giving all welfare

recipients a chance at some sort of work experience.

But the benefits of this experience have been questionable, as the work was mainly in animation and working in community organizations.

McCaughey asserted that EXTRA

failed in its objective of getting welfare recipients off welfare and into the job market.

"Very few people statistically actually go from EXTRA into the job market. For Welfare [Québec], the statistics who are considered successes are people who have left the system," said McCaughey.

Leaving the system is a vague concept though. As McCaughey pointed out "It is possible to leave the system by being disqualified. Very few people go from EXTRA to real jobs."

One of the features of PAIE is the cooperation between the private sector and the government to get people back to work. Businesses take on a worker for a six month period and provide them with an apprenticeship, and training in the workplace, for minimum wage.

The original plan of PAIE was for workers to be kept on the jobs after the six month period was over.

However, some companies in the private sector have con-

tinued to take advantage of PAIE.

"The PAIE programme in its original conception wasn't so bad. The problem was that the private sector companies said they couldn't guarantee that everytime they took on a PAIE worker that they could hire them. In other words the company could obtain a worker for a six month period, which was subsidised by the govern-

by Andrea Mason

In keeping with the national assault on social assistance programmes, the Québec PQ government has announced its intentions to overhaul the provincial welfare system.

The reforms, which go into effect on April 1 of this year, do not bode well for anybody, including students. According to Eric Shragge, professor at McGill's School of Social Work, there will be "less welfare, lower rates, more restrictions and possibly mandatory workfare for young people."

The reforms reflect a new attitude which the provincial government is taking towards those on social assistance. This attitude was expressed by Income Security minister, Jeanne Blackburn earlier this month. Blackburn said that people in Québec can no longer expect that social assistance is their due.

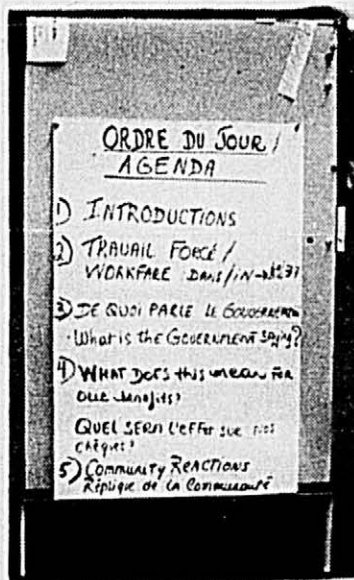
The new emphasis on obliging people to take what the government gives them, in terms of jobs and financial assistance, means that students' choices will also be limited.

### SELF SUFFICIENCY DENIED

For Dominique McCaughey of Project Genesis, an organisation that works, among other things, with welfare recipients in Cote des Neiges, this new attitude is actually part of recent trend in Québec which began with the 1989-1990 welfare reforms.

McCaughey points to the government's continued tendency to slash programmes designed to help young welfare recipients regain self-sufficiency.

One such example is the *Retour aux études* programme. *Retour* was set-up to



DAILY PHOTO BY MIKE CULLEN

getting the facts



# deemed unfair

## its workfare programmes

ment, and then let them go."

For McCaughey and others at the information session, workfare in the province has essentially been without benefit.

"Five years into bill 37 [the changes in 1989-1990], there aren't many people who have made their way onto the job market. Many people have gone through these programmes more than once,"

said McCaughey.

### KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE

AGIR is the latest addition to the family of workfare programmes. An intensive, six week job search programme, AGIR restricts people from doing part time work to supplement their welfare cheques.

By having a person come

for training for six weeks, any attempt at part-time work is eliminated.

In response to AGIR, community groups plan to continue fighting workfare in Québec.

"What we have been trying to do is react very quickly to the government and tell them we're not pleased with the changes they are making. We've proposed some alterna-

tives to certain work programmes. Community groups are also trying to work with the public to inform and educate them," said McCaughey.

McCaughey also mentioned other strategies of action such as putting pressure on local politicians and getting information out to the unemployed as quickly as possible.

"It's very important to put pressure on local politicians.

We all have local representatives who aren't doing anything. It's essential to write letters."

"Another way to apply pressure is by talking in local welfare offices and offering criticisms about welfare and the services that are offered. It is also important to highlight the problems associated with the workfare programmes."

# STUDENTS NOT IMMUNE

## WELFARE REFORM MEANS TOUGH TIMES FOR STUDENTS

allow single parents on welfare to pursue post-secondary education full-time. The welfare system pays for books, tuition, and \$10/day for childcare.

While this sounds positive, one of the biggest limitations to *Retour* is the power that welfare agents retain in vetoing the programme choices of these students.

"They [the students] are generally pushed into short-term, technical and certificate programs and are prohibited from taking general studies in the Arts or Humanities disciplines," explained McCaughey.

Shragge describes this as reflective of a turn towards more power in the hands of government authorities over peoples' lives. This, said Shragge, is "social control, not just social assistance."

As well, participants of *Retour* are cut off from welfare after four semesters, making them depend on loans and bursaries instead.

The switch from welfare to loans and bursaries has continued to prove difficult for students both on and off the *Retour* programme. Students who depend on welfare during the summer months and then return to loans and bursaries in the fall have also met with difficulties.

McCaughey depicts a scenario in which students often have to wait for their cheques without money to buy food or books.

Shragge agreed with this description. "Students often have trouble bridging the time between welfare and loans and bursaries. There is a gap there which is a difficult time," he said.

With the new welfare reforms announced by

Blackburn, young people may find it even harder to gain self-sufficiency. This time the change will effect students in highschool.

Previously, the *Rattrapage* programme gave government assistance to young people who wanted to complete their highschool education. Welfare used to pay for their basic expenses until graduation.

Despite the popularity and success of this programme, McCaughey said the province canceled it because it was taking too long for applicants to complete their studies. This effectively cut off 6 to 8 000 aid recipients.

"They shot themselves in the foot. They [the government] cut the one programme that was working because it cost too much money," declared McCaughey.

Julie Raby, of Multi-Caf, a community group in Montréal, sees the changes to Welfare as a control measure designed to transfer the burden off the shoulders of the provincial government onto institutions like universities and to the individual students.

### SMALL AND INADEQUATE

Shragge described the welfare programme which supports students at university in Québec as "small and inadequate."

And it is getting smaller and more inadequate.

Loans and bursaries are not always enough to cover the costs of living for students. And the more loans and bursaries a student requires, the more they have to pay back later.

This "Catch 22" as McCaughey called it, only seems to underline the fact

that the full extent of the effects of Québec's welfare reform on students is not limited to the changes in student programmes alone.

Once out of university, students find themselves in an uncertain job market, burdened with a heavy debt load. This is a reality many students in Québec are going to have to face as it is a province which boasts a 13 per cent unemployment rate.

Students may find themselves in need of welfare after completing university.

But with the major changes to the categories of people who are eligible for welfare, this may not be an option open to many students.

The highest benefits are granted to those who participate in a government-sponsored job search or job training program. The second highest benefits are designated for those who are waiting to gain admittance to a government-sponsored program. The lowest category, known as the "non-participation" scale consists of people who refuse to register in government workshops.

April 1 will see the elimination of this last category altogether. According to McCaughey, this move is harmful and unfair because it fails to acknowledge that many of the people in this category have already completed one of the government programmes or are independently looking for work.

Further restrictions will be placed on the amount of personal savings which welfare recipients are permitted to have. In the past, a single welfare recipient was allowed to have \$1 500 in the bank. As

of April 1, "you must be completely destitute, with no money in the bank, before you will be eligible to receive welfare," said McCaughey.

Welfare programmes in Québec may be further jeopardised by the federal government's decision to eliminate the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) used to limit the way provinces spent welfare money. Previously, welfare could not be contingent on workfare. Welfare recipients had the right to appeal a decision and residential requirements were illegal.

"Now that CAP is gone, provinces have more scope to implement restrictions," commented Shragge.

Alice Herskovitch, also from Project Genesis, commented that "young people are losing hope," as the result of continual discrimination.

A loss of hope may account for recent reports in the *Globe and Mail* and the *Gazette* which point to a marked drop in university enrollment in the province.

Dermod Travis of PIRA Communications, a research company in Montréal, said this was "strange" considering the fact that usually in times of a job market slowdown, enrollment in universities goes up.

### ON N'EST PAS SEUL

Québec students are definitely not alone in the impact that government cuts will have on their present and future situations. Students all over Canada are facing similar difficulties.

John Clarke of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, said that students in Canada may be pushed off welfare alto-

gether and the expense may become the sole responsibility of the loans and bursaries programmes.

In Québec, the government has made continual promises that any welfare reform will not penalise young people. Weeks before the announcement of her reforms, Blackburn reiterated this commitment.

Now, students finding themselves isolated are trying to fight back. Patrick Howe of University of Montréal's *Fédération des Associations Etudiantes du Campus de l'Université de Montréal (FAECUM)*, declared that students must send a clear message to the government about their concerns.

However, he said that FAECUM is not taking an active stance on cuts that do not specifically involve education, as this would only serve to confuse the government.

"We are looking for a clear response from the government," said Howe.

But John Clarke advocates a more concerted effort to fight what he described as a "vicious corporate agenda of capital which seeks to solve the deficit problem [in Canada] at the expense of the country's least privileged citizens."

And students who cannot afford to pay for their education on their own are part of this sector.

Clarke suggested that it is not enough to simply get people together and protest.

"We need a fighting perspective. We have to take to the streets and hurt the people in power politically, economically, socially and industrially."



# NATIONAL DAY

By Roberta Laucke

Last January, students from across the country came together to protest government cuts to social services like education. In less than two weeks they will march again to mark this year's National Day of Action.

"Last year we had 15 000 students come out and participate. I can't say how many students will be there this year... but I'm hoping there will be even more," said Chris Carter, a member of the McGill Action Committee.

This February 7 the streets will once again be filled with students united to support their right to accessible education and social programs. The demonstration will start at Concordia, sweep past the McGill Roddick gates, move along McGill College until St. Jacques Street, and end at Université de Québec à Montréal.

This year's march is being described as a treasure hunt, designed to uncover sources of Canada's hidden wealth in the larger, untaxed corporations. It is being organised across Canada by the Canadian Federation of Students in conjunction with a variety of local student organisations.

Throughout the protest, students will be passing by the commercial district to point out important sources of potential revenue for the Canadian government. The result will be to bring something that is valuable, but hidden, back as a message to the government.

"The National Day of Action will be like none other done in the past. We are taking a debate about cuts to social programs one step further. We are pointing out to the federal government that there is an amount of wealth in the country and it should be used to pay for social programs," said Brad Lavigne, a member of the CFS.

"We're targeting corporations that profit from literally billions of dollars and evade paying their taxes. Other countries with similar political en-

vironments collect taxes. Our political leaders choose not to collect," he said.

"The federal government says there is no money and we are using February 7 to say this is wrong," Lavigne continued.

Lavigne's observations are supported by the evidence examined in *Enough of this Nonsense*, a recent CFS publication. The document states that "Canada is one of the few countries that does not have wealth or inheritance taxes. If we did have such taxes and levied them at the average rate of other countries, they could bring in an estimated additional revenue of \$15 billion a year."

## AN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET FOR CANADA

Students in the upcoming march will show the government an alternative budget developed by both the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and a social justice

coalition called CHOICES.

The document points to corporations such as Air Canada and Alcan which have been taking advantage of loopholes and owe billions of dollars in deferred taxes. By collecting these taxes, the alternative budget suggests that the government would amass needed revenue — reducing the deficit and the need to cut expenditures.

"Over 98 000 Canadians with annual incomes over \$100 000 take advantage of tax loopholes so that they don't have to pay one cent in income tax.... Canada's top five banks were given 2.8 billion dollars in tax breaks during the 1980's, a period in which they laid off 12 000 employees," states the document.

Carter noted that if these taxes were collected the government could offset cuts and begin to make changes. "There The McGill Daily

is \$40 billion in deferred taxes. It is the middle and lower class people who pay. Social programs, welfare and unemployment insurance are dissolving... [but] education benefits the entire society," he said.

"There is no need to cut back," he stressed.

Andrea Stairs, vp external affairs of McGill's undergraduate Students' Society, was not convinced. She said she thinks the corporations are paying their fair share.

"If corporations were not paying their taxes the federal government would go after them," Stairs asserted.

But the alternative budget states that many corporations do owe the federal government large sums in deferred taxes.

"Canadian Pacific can make \$422 million profit and pay no corporate income tax. In fact

they received a tax credit of \$5.7 million. Chrysler Canada's effective tax rate was only 2.3 per cent on its profit of \$418.8 million, while post secondary education and public services are cut," states the budget.

## STUDENTS STAND TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Although there are many student groups throughout Montréal with diverse political beliefs, on February 7 organisations will put their opinions aside to stand together against tuition fee hikes.

"Students are separated on issues and [some] are clearly left wing and right wing.... But we all agree tuition is our main goal. On February 7 we will turn our petty disagreements off and get people out," said



The B.C. Provincial Legislature will be the site of a noon rally to be followed by a march through the Victoria downtown core. Last year's speakers included both university faculty and students. This year, even the Senate of the University of Victoria is supporting the Day of Action: No exams or papers are to be scheduled for Feb. 7.

In Vancouver, a march begins at the Vancouver Public Library, passes by the Vancouver Stock exchange and culminates in an afternoon rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Lloyd Axworthy's former department, Human Resources Development Canada, is one stop on the Winnipeg demonstration route. University of Winnipeg students will be joined by the University of Manitoba Student Action Committee and other groups as they march through the Winnipeg banking district on their way to the provincial legislature.



## February 7... less than two

STUDENTS TO FIGHT CUTS TO S

Winnipeg



# OF ACTION ACROSS CANADA

Photos provided by the  
Carillon of the University  
of Regina and Cameron  
Booth of the McGill Daily



In Newfoundland, a noon rally at the Memorial University campus will kick off a one kilometre march down St. John's main thoroughfare to the Confederation building, the seat of the provincial government.

Students from York, Ryerson, U of T, and the Ontario College of Art will rally together with other student groups at Queen's Park in Toronto. The demonstration will parade down corporate Bay Street to the University of Toronto Varsity arena for a second rally. Speakers include Sunera Thobani, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and Maude Barlow of the Social Activist Council of Canadians.



The president of the University of P.E.I. has lent her full support to the demonstration in Charlottetown, where university students will rally with local high school students at the provincial legislature.

## weeks away

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Carter.  
Lavigne agreed with Carter, stating the 7th will be a day when student groups will put away their differences and work towards preserving accessible education.

"Between groups, things have always been messy. Division goes back a long time. Every year different people get involved with different opinions. The bottom line is that we are all on the same wavelength. Last year, everybody came out and that's what we remember" he said.

Although it gave only "passive support" to last year's rally, McGill's undergraduate Students' Society has decided to endorse the upcoming protest on February 7.

This time McGill students will not only fight for the pres-

ervation of social programs but recommend new sources of revenue to pay for them, such as higher corporate taxes.

But Stairs maintained that she is opposed to increasing corporate taxation and wants the Students' Society to support only part of the march's message. "We can oppose tuition increases in many different ways" she said.

"We can look at creative ways for students to contribute. We can create different funding structures or increase loans. We can impose the CASA grad surtax," she said.

The proposed grad surtax would have students paying for their education twice: once in the form of tuition and later — having paid off the original debt — in the form of an additional tax levied on top of their income taxes.

Stairs did not agree, however, with asking the corporations to pay their deferred taxes.

### TODAY MONTRÉAL, TOMORROW OTTAWA

Although Stairs moved to endorse the February 7 march, she is opposed to joining the Canadian Federation of Stu-

dents — the national organisation which has been organising the demonstration for several months.

"I hope we never become part of CFS," said Stairs. "I don't believe they represent all students. I think they've got quite a number of political points on their agenda that are not in line with what McGill students think. For example, CFS is left wing".

Lavigne challenged Stairs' view. "Andrea doesn't understand what CFS is. We fight government cutbacks. We fight for accessibility for all. Is that a left wing notion? We fight for better student employment. Is that left wing? I don't think so."

The outcome of last year's protest, also organised by CFS, was a huge success. Students

marched to stop the Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plan and won."

Under the ICRLP, students would pay back their loans upon graduation, at rates based upon their income level, but accrue interest all along. Students criticised the proposed system on the grounds that it would keep them in debt longer after graduating, and possibly result in higher tuition fees.

Though the ICRLP was scrapped, the battle is far from over. February 7 will be one of many steps in an ongoing campaign to keep education and social programs accessible.

In May, the CFS will coordinate the On to Ottawa Trek in commemoration of the Pan-Canadian march held 61 years ago.

As Lavigne pointed out, the Pan-Canadian march "led to the social safety net we see being eroded today."

This year's event will last three days and involve "massive demonstrations on Parliament Hill."

"This is not a one day protest. It is a long term project because we are fighting a whole political agenda [of cutting social programs]," concluded Lavigne.



### 1) CANADA-CHILE TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL TRADE

Only two years after the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Canada is already moving to establish more trading ties with countries south of its border.

With cheap labour and lax environmental regulations in Mexico already secured, Canada began negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement with Chile last week.

In response, The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT) issued a joint statement.

Well aware of NAFTA's negative impact on workers' rights and the environment, the two labour unions have pledged to co-operate to ensure that the Canada-Chile negotiations result in safeguards against similar effects.

"Worldwide, workers find themselves under attack from the corporate and financial interests of transnational companies who want to use the international competitiveness and globalisation of the world economy to limit workers' rights and reduce health and safety standards in the workplace," the joint statement said.

The CLC and CUT Chile statement recommends that the trade agreement include labour standards and clauses — including freedom of association and equal pay — mandated in conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Planning to continue their alliance, the CLC and CUT Chile are pressing for inclusion in the consultative process of the Canada-Chile talks.

### 2) JAPAN PUSHES TO FREEZE WAGE INCREASES

Japan's most powerful corporations are planning to take a hard line with labour unions in the upcoming spring negotiations, the Tokyo newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* has reported.

The paper has reported that the Nikkeiren — the Japanese Federation of Employers' Associations — is planning on demanding that wages remain at the level of the previous year.

Although wages did rise in each of the last three years, the level of increase has been declining. Labour unions won a five per cent raise in 1992, but that increase shrank to below three per cent last year.

Talks between the employers and the unions — termed the "spring offensive" — are set to begin soon and will culminate by the final week of

March.

The Nikkeiren's hard-line stance comes just as the financial outlook for many Japanese corporations is improving. Corporate profits are on the rise, and the Yen has stopped appreciating relative to the American dollar. The slow growth in the value of the Yen will help the economic

engine of Japan's economy — export of consumer electronics to Western markets.

Unions have promised that they will fight any effort from corporations to deny workers their share of the improved

economic forecast, and oppose any measures to weaken job security and benefits.

Source: *Asahi Shimbun* and *PeaceNet*

### 3) MAY DAY ON BAY

On May 1, it won't be business as usual in Toronto's financial district. A Labour Day demonstration and sit-in is being organised by the Ontario Coalition for Non-Violent Action to grind business to a halt on Bay Street.

Organisers hope the protest will both raise community awareness about the effects of

protestors are anticipated to attend the sit-in on Bay Street. It is hoped that participants will take the experience back to their communities to organise similar protests against the Harris cutbacks.

Behrens would like the demonstration to be effective in "focusing attention on the real power source and make

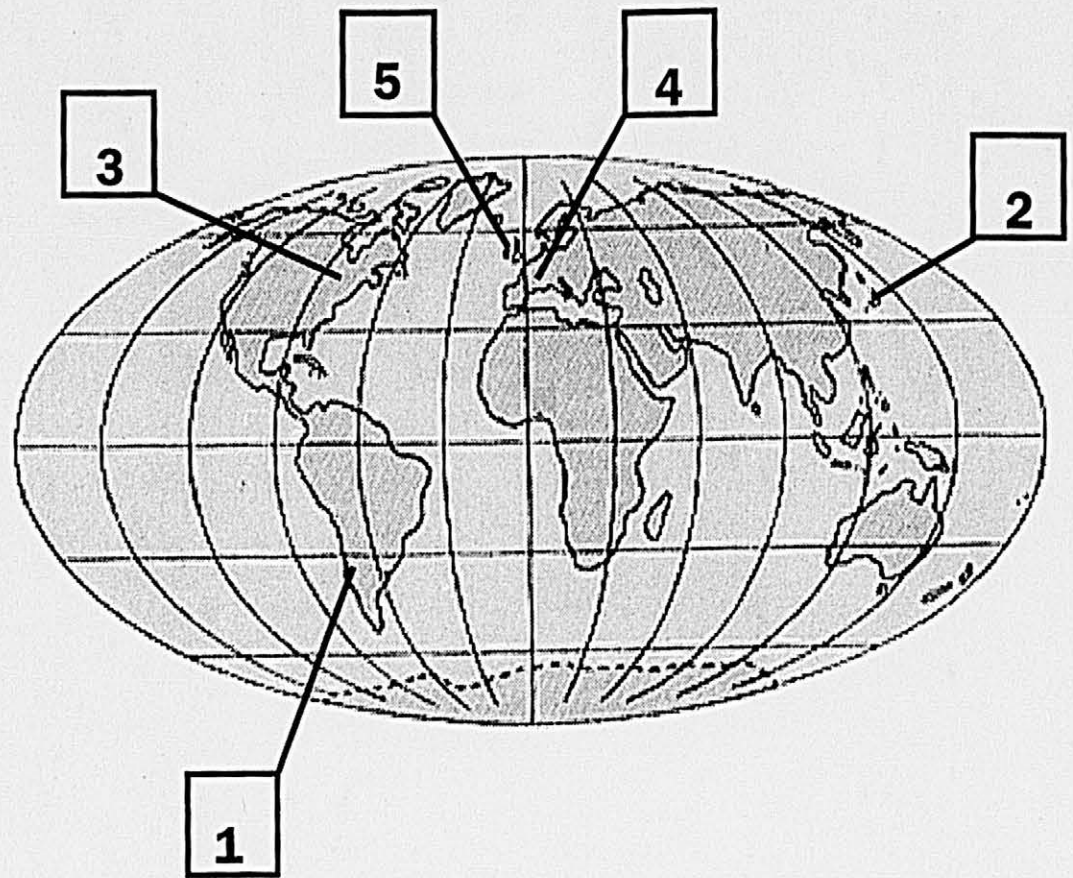
hard-hitting austerity package. The package calls for a massive reduction in welfare benefits and the restructuring of many state-run corporations.

Pay-increases in France's large public sector would also be slashed.

In its aggressive opposition to the CGT, Disney manage-

tory.

The \$200 annual tax was initiated as part of a cutback agenda by Dublin's city council to introduce charges for public services. According to Higgins, the average worker in Ireland currently pays 48 per cent in personal income taxes before additional user fees. Conversely, local corpo-



## Boycotts, Cutbacks and Strikes

the Harris government cutbacks and cause a disruption of the corporate agenda.

Demonstration organiser Matthew Behrens hopes to create indirect political pressure by focusing on the link between corporate interests and government policy. "Bay Street business dictates policy to the government and Bay Street is run by one motive: greed," Behrens commented.

According to Behrens, Ontario corporations presently owe \$40 billion in back taxes to the provincial government, which "amounts to an accountability problem where welfare moms and the unemployed are blamed for the deficit instead of corporations which are the real culprits."

The \$6 billion worth of cutbacks to social services initiated by the conservative government include a 22 per cent reduction in welfare rates and further cuts to health care and education. The Harris government's revision of the Labour Relations Act has undermined the legal status of provincial unions while cutting funding to the Ministry of Labour by nearly 50 per cent. Meanwhile, corporate interests have largely been maintained.

Between 500 and 1000

governments accountable to the people instead of big businesses on Bay Street."

The coalition is also considering a major boycott against companies which have made corporate donations to the Ontario Conservative Party.

### 4) TROUBLE IN THE MAGIC KINGDOM

Euro-Disney, the American theme park located just outside Paris, is the latest site of labour repression in France.

On Jan. 3, management at the theme park ordered security to attack protesting union members. The clash occurred when park security grabbed an employee, a member of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), who was participating in a rally for higher wages. 14 people were injured and several required hospitalisation.

"There were beatings," a Disney official admitted.

The workers were protesting Euro-Disney's Mickey Mouse wages. New workers are paid the French minimum wage and only receive a raise after one year on the job.

The Disney protest was part of a wider action on the part of French labour to block Prime Minister Alain Juppé's

ment has aligned itself with many other French corporations using the austerity measures as an excuse to weaken unions.

On Jan. 5, riot police stormed three bus terminals being held by striking workers in Marseille — the heart of the country's labour movement. Replacement workers were called in to drive the city's buses.

Source: *Workers World Service* and *misc.activism.progressive*

### 5) WATER TAX IN IRELAND

Last year, when the city council of Dublin, Ireland introduced a controversial new tax on water, local reaction was stronger than anticipated. Residents voiced their overwhelming opposition to the water tax by mounting an unprecedented non-payment movement.

"The water tax was greeted by working people with absolute outrage," County Councilor Joe Higgins reported.

Higgins, who is leading the Anti-Water Charges Campaign, has succeeded in rallying the support of over a quarter of a million Dublin residents. The movement could prove to be the most significant civil disobedience campaign in Irish his-

torations enjoy a tax amnesty on such fees.

"Workers see the water charges as the first step to user fees, beginning with garbage collection and leading to health care. Water charges are nothing more than a prelude to privatisation," Higgins said.

In retaliation to the non-payment campaign, city council moved to disconnect the water service of households refusing to pay the tax, and established a reconnection fee of several hundred dollars.

In turn, members of the Anti-Water Charges Campaign responded by cementing open the water valves of threatened households to prevent water inspectors from disconnecting the water supply.

"Systematic attacks on the economic and social rights of Dublin residents cannot be stopped by appeals to the conscience of the politicians," Higgins asserted.

The battle between residents and the city council has moved to the courts where, to date, charges have been brought against 40 households. Meanwhile, Higgins estimates that 55 per cent of Dublin residents continue to refuse payment, "and that number is rising."



# More than tough words

## Nigerian writer condemns compliant international community

by Jacqui Jordan

Peering out over the spectacles perched on the end of his nose, Wole Soyinka, Nigerian Nobel laureate, captivated the 600 spectators gathered in McGill's Fieldhouse Auditorium on the evening of January 22.

They had come to hear the winner of the 1986 Nobel literary prize, tell his tale of undemocratic bloodshed in his Nigerian homeland, a situation that has thus far gone unchecked by an acquiescent international community.

The goal of this conference entitled "Crisis and Struggle for Democracy in Nigeria" was not only to educate through vivid lettered analogy, but also to demand action.

He began by telling the story of the Ogoni, a small and peaceful tribal minority whose land is poisoned by oil extraction from which it gains no financial benefit.

Oil profits continue to be reaped by Multinationals such as Shell Oil as well as the ruling military dictatorship of General Sani Abacha.

Soyinka detailed the fateful event of May 21 1994, when four elder members of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) were "brutally hacked to death" at a public rally. The military blamed the deaths on Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP activists.

The military then put Saro-Wiwa and the other eight activists on trial. However, Soyinka said the tribunals were "tin tribunals hand-picked by General Abacha."

Soyinka also pointed to witness bribery and machine gunning of defense council chambers. Finally, claiming that "continued participation would only give a semblance of legality to a blatant circus spectacle," the team defending the MOSOP activists withdrew.

Due to what Soyinka termed as Abacha's "psychotic disposition" the nine innocent men were hanged on the eve of the 1995 Commonwealth Conference in New Zealand, in "a deliberate show of contempt for world opinion".

Echoing in the ears of all were the last words uttered by Ken Saro-Wiwa before being led to the scaffold - "Why are you people doing this to me? What sort of nation is this?" To these rhetorical questions, Soyinka responded, "Is there a Nigerian living today who has not asked himself this

question?"

Soyinka's message to the international community was a call to arms. He condemned the Commonwealth nations for taking a soft stance against the Abacha regime. The Commonwealth's response to the killing was to shorten Abacha's three year term by one year. For Soyinka, this is no more than a "slap on the wrist".

Instead of these "wait and see policies," Soyinka called on the international community to impose strict sanctions against the military regime until a "swift and positive return to democracy in Nigeria" is attained.

He warned that the 19 other political prisoners are destined to meet a fate similar to Saro-Wiwa if the world continues to "shuffle their feet."

Soyinka asked, "Does a sustained diplomatic offensive really cost that much?"

The conference, was organised by McGill's Centre for Developing Area Studies in conjunction with Alternatives, a Montréal-based human rights group.

Conceived two years ago through the amalgamation of three smaller groups focused on different areas of the de-

veloping world, Alternatives is dedicated to public education and coordination of various NGOs.

Their current initiatives include publishing a newsletter on Nigeria and participating in the boycott of Shell Oil. This was launched by the Group for Research and Initiative for the Liberation of Africa (GRILA).

The group had also organised a workshop for NGO's on the same day as the conference but were disappointed with the turnout. In fact, organisations like Oxfam Québec and Development and Peace did not participate. "We have seen some disinterest from other NGO's" said Lambert.

Speculation on the Canadian government's interest in the Nigerian situation was also raised. Former Canadian Minister of External Affairs, Flora MacDonald was scheduled to speak alongside Soyinka about the Commonwealth's Human Rights Initiative Mission to Nigeria, but she canceled at the last minute.



brief

## RECOGNISING RELIGION AT MCGILL

### GRUSHCOW PUSHES FOR HOLY DAYS POLICY

Lisa Grushcow, Students' Society vp university affairs, believes in giving some substance to McGill's policy of not discriminating on the basis of religion. With this belief in mind, Grushcow has formulated a "Holy Days Policy" that she hopes to present to Senate by the end of February.

Grushcow hopes that the policy will provide a recourse for students in situations when class attendance, assignments or examinations are in conflict with days of religious observance.

"You shouldn't be penalised for your absence on your holidays," she commented, noting that the report of the ombudsperson had stated the need for such a policy in the past.

Grushcow's proposal recommends the creation of a multi-faith calendar, to be

drawn up by the registrar before the beginning of the academic year. Such a calendar could then serve as a reference for professors and other university officials when setting course schedules or making allowances for individual students.

The question, then, surrounds which religious groups would fall under the scope of this policy. At the moment, Grushcow is working from a list of the religions whose marriage contracts are recognised by the Canadian provincial governments.

While there has been talk of paring down this list, Grushcow emphasises that the policy does not seek to exclude or alienate any religious community. "The point is to be inclusive," she said.

While some professors are already open to making allow-

ances for a wide range of religious faiths, Grushcow notes that respect for holy days is neither consistent nor widespread.

"I've seen the need," she said. "Professors tell them [students] that such-and-such a religion isn't recognised in the University, 'so you'll just have to make do'."

"It just seems very common-sensical that we have some basis for treatment," she added, pointing to the striking inconsistency one semester when a Greek exam was held on the day of Greek Easter.

Grushcow also believes that a Holy Days Policy, in making information readily available to the university community, would help prevent misrepresentation of religious observance by students. "The premise is one of goodwill on

both sides," she said.

She notes, however, that any abuse of this respect would be subject to university regulations. She points to Article 10b of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook which states that "no student shall knowingly defraud or abuse the trust of any University office, facility, or service."

Moreover, such a policy would provide students from smaller religious communities with an established avenue for recourse in the event of conflict with a professor or teaching assistant.

"At the end of the day," Grushcow pointed out, "all policies are only pieces of paper. But they are pieces of paper you can appeal to."

- Kathleen Frederickson, with additional reporting by Jacqueline Reis



## hyde park RED WIGGLERS

When was the last time that you opened up a bin in your kitchen and saw worms? If you haven't had that experience yet, then you obviously don't own an indoor worm composter. It may sound like something that only die-hard environmentalists would own, but there are actually a lot of students who have one. The reason for this is that vermicomposting, or worm composting, is clean, easy, cheap and, most of all, tremendously effective.

Vermicomposting is a method of accelerating the natural breakdown of organic waste by using red worms. The worms ingest decomposing matter, creating a fine black granular compost called "castings". These castings represent a fraction of the weight and volume of the original waste. Alan Smith, an experienced composter, says about composting, "I live with two other roommates in an apartment. Before we got a composter we'd throw out almost a bag of garbage per day. That was a year and a half ago. Now we average one or two a week."

What is the point of composting in an apartment? If it is a natural process, doesn't it also take place in landfills? No, hardly at all. In a landfill, the same organisms that act in a composter exist, but, like normal soil, these organisms only thrive in the most superficial layers of the ground. Bacteria and other organisms require sufficient oxygen which is not present far below the surface. In a landfill, matter gets buried so quickly that the natural processes of breakdown are not

able to occur because of the absence of oxygen. People have gone to landfills and pulled out 80 year old newspapers that could still be read.

What can be decomposed in a worm composter? The list is nearly exhaustive: bread, coffee grounds and filter, egg shells, fruits, grains, pasta, vegetables, peanut hulls, etc.

There are many myths about composting. The first and most frequent charge is that composters smell. Actually, there is barely any smell at all. And what about fruit flies? Fruit flies are not a problem provided that the food is buried. Finally, don't the worms ever escape? Rarely. Worms like humidity and a rich, dark environment. They particularly hate light and hence will head away from rather than towards it.

A worm composter is simple and maintenance free. The worms can live in about any size bin or container as long as it is opaque. They require an initial bedding which can easily be made up from shredded newspaper. In addition, a few holes have to be placed in the container for ventilation and drainage. The container can be placed just about anywhere as long as some newspaper is kept on the bottom to soak up any liquid.

So what's the point? Most waste is produced by the household unit and therefore will never be effectively reduced unless intervention occurs there.

If you want more information or are interested in acquiring a vermicomposter, then please contact Russell at 289-1805 or [bxxt@musicb.mcgill.ca](mailto:bxxt@musicb.mcgill.ca)

*Russell Unger and Alpesh Patel*

## THE MCGILL DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD ELECTIONS

**THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN  
MOVED FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 8 AT 17H.**

**THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL POSITIONS  
ARE OPEN:**

**NEWS EDITORS (2)  
LAYOUT CO-ORDINATOR (1)  
PHOTO EDITOR (1)  
OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR  
NATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR  
SCIENCE EDITOR  
SPORTS EDITOR**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 398-  
6784 OR DROP BY THE OFFICE, STUDENT  
UNION ROOM B-03.**

## Poets against Poverty

NDG food depot combines culture and activism

by Stefanie von Beoczy

With social cuts and welfare reforms being implemented in full force, fundraising events are becoming a vital source for many community service groups in Montréal.

One such group is the NDG Community Council's food depot who's latest fundraising effort is a benefit called "Poets Against Poverty" organised by the depot's Philip Amsel.

The NDG Council formed their Food Depot eight years ago in an attempt to fight poverty within the local and surrounding communities. Directed by Michael Kay, the group offers a three-day supply of food to many low or no income families in desperate need.

Serving the areas of NDG, Montréal Ouest, Ville St. Pierre, Westmount and Cote St. Luc, the Food Depot sees about 2 000 people a month ranging from students to the elderly, as

well as many refugees.

A further group, Info-Depot, offers counseling, giving people the necessary support and legal aid they may need.

Though funded by

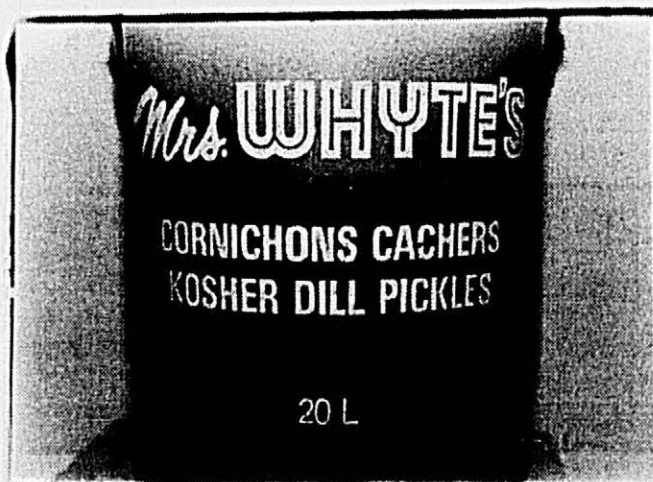
night coffee houses featuring local talent.

"People should be working together to fight poverty," says Amsel.

Commenting that the event will be bilingual, he goes on to say, "We shouldn't be building bridges between the French and English."

And so, for Amsel, the bilingual readings, by poets such as Claude Hamelin, Robert Smith, Stephen Schecter, Eric Roger and the organiser himself, will present a message of united support within the community and hopefully reassert the necessity for what Amsel considers to be a "solidarity between the English and French".

"Poets Against Poverty" will be held at Bar Camera, at 2071 St. Catherine West at 20h on Tuesday, January 30, 1996. Admission is an item of non-perishable food, donations are optional



DAILY PHOTO BY DAVID RYHER

## AIDS A THREAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1998, a total of only \$12 million out of the \$200 million strategy will be spent on Aboriginal programmes from the medical services branch.

Furthermore, various Health Canada officials say that they have never seen or heard of the Royal Commission study. Earl Nowgesic, the HIV/AIDS specialist for the medical services branch — a division of Health Canada — sits on the government's aboriginal AIDS committee whose mandate is to "ensure a coordinated and balanced approach to aboriginal AIDS issues."

Nowgesic admits that he has also never seen the study, but says that the government has effective programs in place.

Tony Reynolds, the Royal Commission's executive director, says that the study was submitted to the Department of Indian Affairs, where a liaison officer distributed the information among interested ministries.

David Newhouse, the chair of native studies at Trent University, and co-author of the study, is upset that the document has sat around for two years, with no action being taken on the recommendations.

"The recommendations are just as relevant today as they were two years ago," said Newhouse. "I would hope that they use the recommendations because of the urgency of the situation."

Newhouse says that the aboriginal communities still have insufficient resources to deal with the threat of AIDS, and that the government should provide more funding. AFN's Poitras agrees, and says that by the time the funds trickle down to the institutions, most of the money is gone.

Poitras was a co-founder of the Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society in Alberta, which has become a model for other Aboriginal AIDS centres in the country.

The 37 year-old Mikisew Aboriginal has worked with Aboriginal AIDS patients for over five years and says that the amount of red-tape she has to deal with is extremely frustrating.

Even more frustrating for Poitras, is losing many of the close friends she has made through the centre, to the terrible illness.

She describes the virus as a "very, very lonely disease," since patients are sometimes shunned from their communities.

She says that the only solution to controlling the disease is if governments and native leaders work together and make the issue a priority.

Part of the problem, Poitras says, is that there is some resistance within the Aboriginal communities to deal with the issue.

The study acknowledges that "there may be a fear within the Aboriginal community that the collection of data on Aboriginal people with AIDS will stigmatize Aboriginal people," but it says that such information is essential to mount effective education, prevention and care programmes.

The study also notes that Aboriginal Peoples are especially vulnerable because their health is much poorer than people within the Canadian mainstream.

Life expectancy for Aboriginals is 10 years lower than the national average, infant mortality is 60 per cent higher, suicide rates are 3-7 times higher, and Aboriginals have higher rates of other major diseases and disorders.

Reynolds says that information from the study may be used in the commission's final report due out in early spring.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. **McGill Students & Staff** (with valid ID): \$4.55 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.00 per day. **General Public**: \$5.70 per day, or \$4.85 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, and prices do not include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%). Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will reappear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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**Stat camera.** Itek 540. Good condition, maintained by KBR Graphics. \$2500 or best offer. 398-6790 ask for Mark.

**Apple Stylewriter** for sale. Like new, hardly used. Purchased spring 95. \$200 or best offer. 398-6790 ask for Marian or Mark.

### 10-RIDES/TICKETS

**Concert and Canadiens** hockey seats for sale. Rod Stewart, AC/DC, Cirque de Soleil. Info: 362-9302 Joe.

### 11-LOST & FOUND

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### 14-NOTICES

**McGILL NIGHTLINE** 398-6246

**McGill Nightline open** 9pm-3am a confidential and anonymous line. We offer listening, referrals and information. Call at 398-6246 398-MAIN.

**As a McGill student,** you are a member of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at McGill. If you wish to relinquish your membership in this organization and claim your \$3 refund, come to 3647 University St. 1-5pm Jan 29-Feb 16.



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# AUDITIONS



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For more information write or call:  
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Monday, January 29, 1996

The McGill Daily



# NTSEVENTSEVENTSEVENTSEVE

## MONDAY, JANUARY 29

- The Debating Union weekly meeting and debate, 550 Sherbrooke St. in rm. 1175. All welcome.
- McGill Nightline Awareness Week begins. This anonymous and confidential listening, information and referral service is open 18h-3h, 7 days a week. Call 398-6246.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

- Alternatives in Education Interest Group hosts a discussion and brief info session, Burnside 426, 16h30. This week's discussion is on the Atlantis Project. Info: Maja Groff at 845-3258.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

- Progressive Conservative McGill general meeting and policy session, Shatner 107 at 18h.. All welcome. Info: Rajesh at 288-9037.
- The McGill Legal Activist Society presents a conference for students and faculty on "The Future of Law Reform in Canada," 9h-17h at the McGill Faculty of Law, 3644 Peel St., Moot Court. Admission free.
- The Black Committee of Social Workers and The Association of Black Social Workers presents "Celebration," a commemoration of Black History Month. Gospel music, posters, refreshments and calendars available, 11h30-13h, Wilson Hall, 3506 University Street, Wendy Patrick room.
- Centre for Developing Area Studies presents Farhad Mazhar, Bangladeshi poet, journalist and former political prisoner on "Popular Political movements in Bangladesh," 11h

at 3715 Peel, seminar room 100. Info: 398-3507.

## ONGOING

- Tempus Fugit Carpe Diem and This is not the Circus are playing at lunchtime in Morrice Hall, Monday January 29 to Friday February 2. MWF, 13h30 and 16h30 and TTh 14h and 16h. One great hour for only a loonie! Info: Tuesday Night Café Theatre at 398-6600.

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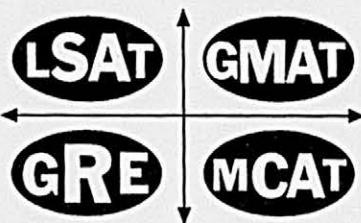
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